

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am in favor of Raised Bill 70 in support of CT public lands. I served for ten years on the Wilton Conservation Commission, which manages Wilton's parks, and I am currently president of the Wilton Land Conservation Trust whose more than 800 acres in more than 100 parcels of protected land contribute measurably to the quality of life in Wilton. State parks and open space reflect the state's recognition of the value of open space for active and passive recreation. As with Wilton's parks and Land Trust properties, these lands help to clear citizens' heads in times of stress and economic uncertainty. As well, they reflect positively on the public concern for the environment and the allure of the state as a place to live and raise a family, values of keen importance to Connecticut's economic development.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the hearing on Raised Bill 70.

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